

What is claimed is:

1. A mower head comprising:
- a deck having at least three sides and at least one side wall depending from said deck;
- at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade; and
- a guard assembly comprising:
- an actuating member mounted on said deck,
- a guard attached to said actuating member and pivotally attached to said deck along two of said at least three sides of said deck, and
- a flap which depends from said guard.

2. The mower head of claim 1 wherein said actuating member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston assembly.

3. The mower head of claim 1 wherein said deck further comprises a flap depending from one of said at least three sides of said deck.

4. The mower head of claim 3 wherein said guard includes a first wall which comprises an approximately straight edge and a second wall which comprises a plurality

of angled sections.

5 ~~82~~ 5. The mower head of claim 4 wherein two of said deck at least three sides are normal to each other and a third of said deck at least three sides is positioned at an acute angle in relation to said two of said deck at least three sides.

6. The mower head of claim 1 further comprising a hinge for pivotally mounting said guard to said deck.

09537497 060500 ~~82~~ 7. The mower head of claim 6 wherein said arm is mounted on said deck at a location spaced from said hinge.

8. The mower head of claim 1 wherein a top surface of said guard and a top surface of said deck are located in the same plane.

5 ~~83~~ 9. A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade;
and
a guard assembly comprising:
an actuating member mounted on said deck,

B3 a hinge extending between two of said at least three sides of said deck,

a guard attached to said actuating member and pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and

5 ~~a flap which depends from said guard.~~

10. The mower head of claim 9 wherein said actuating member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston, said cylinder including a chamber surrounding said piston.

Eds Bely 11. The mower head of claim 9 wherein one of said deck at least three sides comprises a plurality of angled sections.

12. The mower head of claim 11 wherein said guard includes a first wall which comprises a plurality of angled sections which matingly interconnect with said angled sections of said one of deck at least three sides and a
5 ~~second wall which comprises a plurality of angled sections.~~

Eds 13. The mower head of claim 9 further comprising a fourth side and at least three side walls, one depending from at least three of said four sides, wherein two of said at least three side walls are rigid.

14. The mower head of claim 13 wherein one of said three side walls of said deck comprises a flap depending from one of said four sides of said deck.

15. The mower head of claim 9 wherein a top surface of said guard and a top surface of said deck are located in the same plane.

16. The mower head of claim 9 wherein a top surface of said guard and a top surface of said deck are located in different planes.

17. The mower head of claim 16 wherein one of said at least three sides further comprises an extension which protrudes under said guard.

18. A mower head comprising:

a deck comprising:

at least four sides, and

three side walls, one depending from each of three of said at least four sides, wherein two of said three side walls are rigid;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

an actuating member mounted on said deck,

a hinge extending between two of said at least
four sides of said deck,

5 ~~5~~ a guard attached to said pivotable arm and
pivotaly attached to said deck via said hinge, and

a flap which depends from said guard.

19. The mower head of claim 18 wherein said actuating
member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston assembly.

20. The mower head of claim 18 wherein one of said
three side walls comprises a flap depending from one of said
four sides of said deck.

21. The mower head of claim 18 wherein one of said deck
at least four sides comprises a plurality of angled sections.

~~22. The mower head of claim 21 wherein said guard
includes a first wall which comprises a plurality of angled
sections which matingly interconnect with said angled
sections of said one of deck at least four sides and a second
5 wall which comprises a plurality of angled sections.~~

23. The mower head of claim 18 wherein a top surface of said guard and a top surface of said deck are located in the same plane.

24. The mower head of claim 18 wherein a top surface of said guard and a top surface of said deck are located in different planes.

25. The mower head of claim 24 wherein one of said at least four sides further comprises an extension which protrudes under said guard.

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